

## Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Tompkins County SWCD  
June 10, 2015  
170 Bostwick Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Present: Jim Dennis, David McKenna, Dan Carey, Alan Teeter, Aaron Ristow  
Staff: Jon Negley, Kym Jackson  
Guest: Barry Goodrich  
Agencies: Justin Olsen and Patrick Barry, NRCS, Scott Fickbohm, SWCC

Dan Carey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:28pm. A quorum was present.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Aaron Ristow moved to approve the minutes as presented. D. McKenna seconded. No discussion. Carried.

Alan Teeter joined the meeting at 12:35.

### Reports of Other Agencies:

The Ag and Markets Report was presented by Scott Fickbohm on the Spring 2015 Regional District Managers Meeting for Region 2 which occurred on June 8, 2015. The Round 21 rankings are underway, although later than usual. There should be improvements to the contract execution process, however. The State Committee received a record amount of applications. Announcements will be made in August and contracts should be received by the District in the November/December time frame. A possible Climate Resilient Farming Program was discussed but has not been formally unveiled by NYS yet. It will address many climate change issues such as greenhouse mitigation, adaptation, erosion controls, etc. More information is forthcoming. There are new invasive species regulations which may affect Districts' Tree and Shrub Policies and hydroseeding. New species have been identified and include moderately invasive species. Districts are encouraged to adopt these new guidelines. The adoption of a Spill Response Plan was suggested to Districts. Two new Nutrient Management Specialist positions were announced. They have been filled through internal promotions. Bethany Bzduch and Ron Bush will assist and be available for approval of plans

The NRCS gave their written report and is attached. New Program Specialist positions may be coming soon for each Micro team. This will provide contracting and office relief and allow for more field work. For a farm identified as holding property in both Tompkins and Cortland counties, the NRCS confirmed that the Ithaca office can process their work as their Micro team encompasses both counties. They have already provided technical assistance.

### Financial Report & Vouchers:

J. Dennis moved to approve the financial reports for the month of May. A. Teeter seconded. The 2016 budget planning was discussed as a draft must be submitted by July 17, 2015 to the County. A draft budget will be created for review at the next board meeting. J. Dennis advised there were no budget cuts proposed or planned by the County Budget Committee which he Chairs. Second Quarter 2015 reimbursements need to be sent out. FLOWPA accounts are on track and are getting closed out. This will be seen in next month's reporting. Motion Carried.

Vouchers were read aloud by D. McKenna (Treasurer), D. Carey moved to approve vouchers presented, A. Ristow seconded. Carried.

#### Staff/Project Reports:

Kym Jackson was introduced as the Senior Account Clerk. No progress has been made in the hiring of an intern for the Hydroseeding Program. J. Negley, A. Hinickle, and E. Aarnio provided written reports of work they have been doing the past month.

#### Old Business:

Resolution #2015-28 – “Adoption of Fiscal Policies” was tabled until the next meeting to allow for further review.

D. McKenna moved to approve Resolution #2015-32 – “Entering into Contract with City of Ithaca for \$100,000 to treat Hydrilla”. J. Dennis seconded. Carried.

#### New Business:

D. McKenna moved to approve Resolution #2015-35 – “Entering into Contract with Hobart William Smith College for funds to conduct monitoring and sampling of Hydrilla in Cayuga Inlet”. A. Teeter seconded. Carried.

NYS Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program was discussed. The Program encompasses 11 counties in the Southern Tier and will allocate 30 million dollars over five (5) years to bring economic development to the counties and area farms. Tompkins County District is estimated to receive 1.4 million dollars of the funds. This award is based on farm quantities and other quantifying measures by New York State. Projects will need to be environmental and/or economic in nature. Farms should be in the AEM system, have a farm business plan, demonstrate they are good stewards and have a positive future. Education and materials will be provided by NYS and one district will be designated as the outreach coordinator. The funds are not competitive and will be approved on a first come, first served basis. The District will be responsible for procurement, administration, and outreach, but NYS will approve any applications. NYS requires a response of interest by June 12<sup>th</sup>. Board is in favor of pursuing the funds.

A Director’s Development Plan was introduced in draft form. The District missed some performance measure funds last year and this item is needed for Part C reimbursement funding. Board Members will also need to attend and document trainings and meetings. Feedback was requested from the Board Members for inclusion into an amended draft to be approved at the next meeting. The document may be updated and may evolve throughout the year but needs to be completed and submitted yearly. Special requests for applicable trainings and meetings will be considered on a case by case basis.

A Manure Storage Spill Response planning program was discussed based on recent events in Onondaga County and will be modelled after their program. Contact information, a flow chart of responsibility and notice, and media handling/announcements need to be compiled. Work will begin on a draft.

Eugene Aarnio joined the meeting and presented an updated AEM Strategic Plan in draft form. The format was changed dramatically and the District is looking for feedback from the Board. The District has successfully completed up to 3, 4, and 5 objectives and tasks. This plan is part of AEM’s year 11 funding which was due May

5, 2015. The Plan needs to be submitted around July 5<sup>th</sup> which is prior to the next Board Meeting. Revisions may be made to the document through the year and does not need to be approved by NYS. The document is a declaration of goals. A Resolution to pass the document will be created before the next meeting. A. Ristow moved to approve the resolution, J. Dennis seconded. Carried.

J. Dennis moved to adjourn at 2:27pm. Seconded by D. McKenna. Carried.

Next meeting date: July 13, 2015, at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Kym Jackson, District Clerk

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David McKenna, BOD Secretary/Treasurer